

REMARKS

Claims 6-10 are pending in the application. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,268,247 to Freze and U.S. Patent No. 4,326,342 to Schregenberger. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,549,362 to Haried and Schregenberger. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on German Patent No. DE2220425 to Heissmееier and Schregenberger. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Freze and U.S. Patent No. 3,538,614 to Weimer et al. ("Weimer"). Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Haried and Weimer. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Heissmееier and Weimer.

The claims have now been amended. Claims 7 and 9 have now been cancelled. In view of the above amendment, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,268,247 to Freze and U.S. Patent No. 4,326,342 to Schregenberger. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,549,362 to Haried and Schregenberger. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on German Patent No. DE2220425 to Heissmееier and Schregenberger. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Freze and U.S. Patent No. 3,538,614 to Weimer et al. ("Weimer"). Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Haried and Weimer. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Heissmееier and Weimer.

Freze describes a dryer that includes a burner 36 and a damper 30 that controls the exhaust of gas through a discharge passage 38. During the drying mode, the damper 30 may be opened "very slightly" in order to maintain relative humidity of the drying gas. See Freze, column 5, lines 16-22 and Fig 1.

Schregenberger describes an oven that includes a fume incinerator 14, a pressure sensing device 25 that measures the pressure of hot gas flowing from the fume incinerator, and a damper 26 in the inlet conduit 13 which diverts some of the hot gas from the fume incinerator to ambient. See Schregenberger, column 4, lines 5-10 and Fig. 1.

Haried describes a fabric dryer with a heater chamber 40, and fresh air and exhaust dampers 34 and 36 that are linked by a mechanism. The dampers are exhausted simultaneously to open or close both dampers by the same amount, such that the exhaust air and the fresh air are of the same volume. See Haried, column 5, lines 39-56 and Fig. 1.

Heissmeier describes a dryer with an exhaust damper 9 and a fresh air damper 10. Heissmeier further shows that the fresh air damper is open when the exhaust damper is open.

Weimar describes a furnace with a fan damper 48 providing air to a furnace 12 through return duct 46 in response to a pressure-sensing element 58. See Weimar, column 5, lines 31-52 and Fig. 1.

Independent claim 6 of the present application has now been amended to include features of dependent claim 7, which has now been cancelled. Claim 6 now recites "reducing a heating power of the heater based on the reduced volumetric flow rate of the drying air." It is respectfully submitted that each of the cited references fail to teach or suggest this feature. Each of the references describes either an electrical heater (Heissmeier) or a burner (Freze, Haried, Schregenberger and Weimer). It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references anywhere teach or suggest reducing heating power of the respective heater or burner based on drying air volumetric flow rate, as recited in amended claim 6. Nor would reduction of the heating power of the respective heaters of Heissmeier, Freze, Haried, Schregenberger and Weimer be inherent based on variation of the incoming fresh make up air, as such reduction in heating power would not necessarily be present in the respective prior systems. Indeed, no support has been provided for this contention. Because each of the cited references fail to teach or suggest the above-

recited feature of amended claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of the cited references, to the extent proper, could not render claim 6 obvious.

Claim 8 has now been amended to include features of dependent claim 9, which has now been cancelled. Amended claim 9 now recites "a process air circuit including . . . a stationary heating duct" and a pressure sensor disposed "in a space between the stationary heating duct and the rotatable drum" It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest these features. The Office Action admits that Freze, Haried and Heissmeier do not teach or suggest a pressure sensor, as recited in claim 8. See Detailed Action, respectively, page 6, lines 17-19, page 7 line 22 to page 8, line 2, and page 9, lines 5-7. Regarding Weimer, that reference merely describes a dryer with a furnace and "a pressure-sensing element 58 housed inside the combustion zone of the furnace." See Weimer, column 5, lines 37-39. Nor does Schregenberger teach or suggest the above-recited features of claim 8. Because each of the cited references fails to teach or suggest the above-recited features of amended claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of the references, to the extent proper, could not render claim 8 or its dependent claim 10 obvious.

Withdrawal of the respective rejections of claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on respective combinations of Freze, Haried and Heissmeier with Schregenberger and Weimer is respectfully requested.

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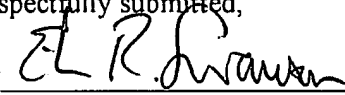
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



Erik R. Swanson

Registration No.: 40,833

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 770

Church Street Station

New York, New York 10008-0770

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant